

MTS Research & Technology
Coordination Conference:
“Seaport Security”

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PORT SECURITY

A large cargo ship with a black hull and white superstructure is docked at a port. A large crane with a blue and yellow cabin is positioned on a barge next to the ship. The ship's bow is visible on the left, and its stern is on the right. The water is blue, and the sky is clear.

- 88% International Cargo
- 1% Containers Inspected
- HAZMAT, LNG, Explosives
- “How Does Port Security Happen?”

PORTS: AMERICA'S VITAL ECONOMIC ENGINES, BUT ALSO THE MOST VULNERABLE GATEWAYS

- Seaport Security: "an embarrassment" and "a danger to national defense"--US Senate
 - 1% of 6 million containers inspected
 - Average USCG port inspection once every two years
 - Cruise ships are especially vulnerable and inviting targets
 - No uniform federal standards for port security

America's Porous Ports

- The laxity of American seaports has long been an open secret among criminals
- Osama bin Laden maintains a secret shipping fleet under various registries

PORT CRIME:

The Common Denominator

- Terrorism
- Drugs
- Theft
- Money laundering
- Smuggling
- Diversion
- Aliens

Why the Increase in Potential Terrorist Threats to Ports?

- Erosion of international controls
- New breed of international terrorist
- Emergence of international cells
- A low risk, high payoff target
- Potential for serious economic destabilization

Basic Federal Roles

- Coast Guard patrols/protects the waterways
- US Customs Service spot-checks international cargo
- Immigration and Naturalization Service reviews the visa status of cruise-ship passengers and crews

Port Security Arrangements

- Private companies provide the front-line defense
- Terminal operators determine the number, qualifications, backgrounds, and pay of the security guards they hire.
- Operators are required by federal law to file security plans with the local U.S. Coast Guard
 - Federal code does not set minimum standards for security plans.
 - Adequacy of plans is left to the judgment of the local Coast Guard captain of the port, who weighs them against the perceived threat to the port

Basic Port Facility Physical Security

- Fencing
- Lighting
- Entrances
- Locks
- Alarm and Intrusion Detection Systems
- Access Controls
- Communications
- Security Guards

Port Security Improvements

Mobile Units

Container Security
Anti-hijack
Alarms
Tracking
Smart Seals
Surveillance

Facilities

Fencing/Barriers
Lighting
Entrances
Intrusion Detection
Access Controls
Comm
High Value Storage
Security Staff

Systems

Log Mgt
Document Control
Fleet Mgt
Security Mgt
Background Invest
Liaison with Police
Loss Surveys

Special Presidential Commission on Seaport Security

- Looked at 12 seaports around the country and found numerous inadequacies
 - unfenced cargo yards
 - poorly trained security guards
 - insufficient standards for workers with access to sensitive areas

KEY PORT SECURITY ISSUES

- *Develop effective cargo container tracking and reporting systems*
- *Improve security awareness of port community*
- *Build port counterterrorism task forces and fusion centers*
- *Increase law local enforcement expertise*
- *Introduce more effective port security technology*
- *Strengthen laws and prosecution*

Key R&D Areas

- Coordinated I&W Systems
- Container Tracking
- Containers, Locks and Seals
- Rapid Non-Intrusive Detection
- Security & Intelligence System Integration

What Lies Ahead

- Terrorists will increase their transportation infrastructure activities
- Law enforcement will be hard pressed to disrupt covert cells and operations
- Overhauling and auditing of port security systems will be an important, growing area